

# **VOLUNTEERS FOR AMERICA: PROTECTING DRINKING WATER COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY**

**Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality**

## Goal:

- **To protect public drinking water sources, both surface water and ground water, from contamination.**

# Audience/Customer:

- **Citizens**
- **Water system operators**
- **Students**
- **Local government officials**
- **Businesses**

# Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)

## Initial Steps in Parishes Targeted For The Drinking Water Protection Program

# Visit Water Systems and Local Officials

- **Visit water systems and local officials to discuss the program.**
- **Provide highway signs to local water systems to be placed at the boundaries of source water protection areas.**





# Complete Contingency Plans and Wellhead Programs

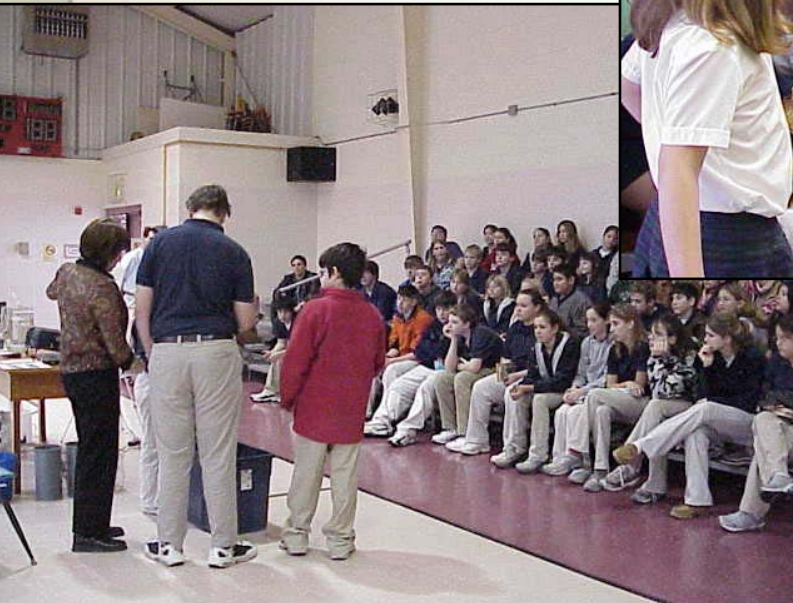
- **Work with water system officials to complete contingency plans to be used in the case of an emergency or loss of water supply.**



# Hold Public Education Campaign

- **Give presentations to local schools and organizations.**
- **Advertise on local radio and television stations.**
- **Hold a community meeting to educate citizens on:**
  - **Where** their drinking water comes from
  - **Why** it is important to protect it
  - **How** they can protect it







# Form Local Drinking Water Protection Committees

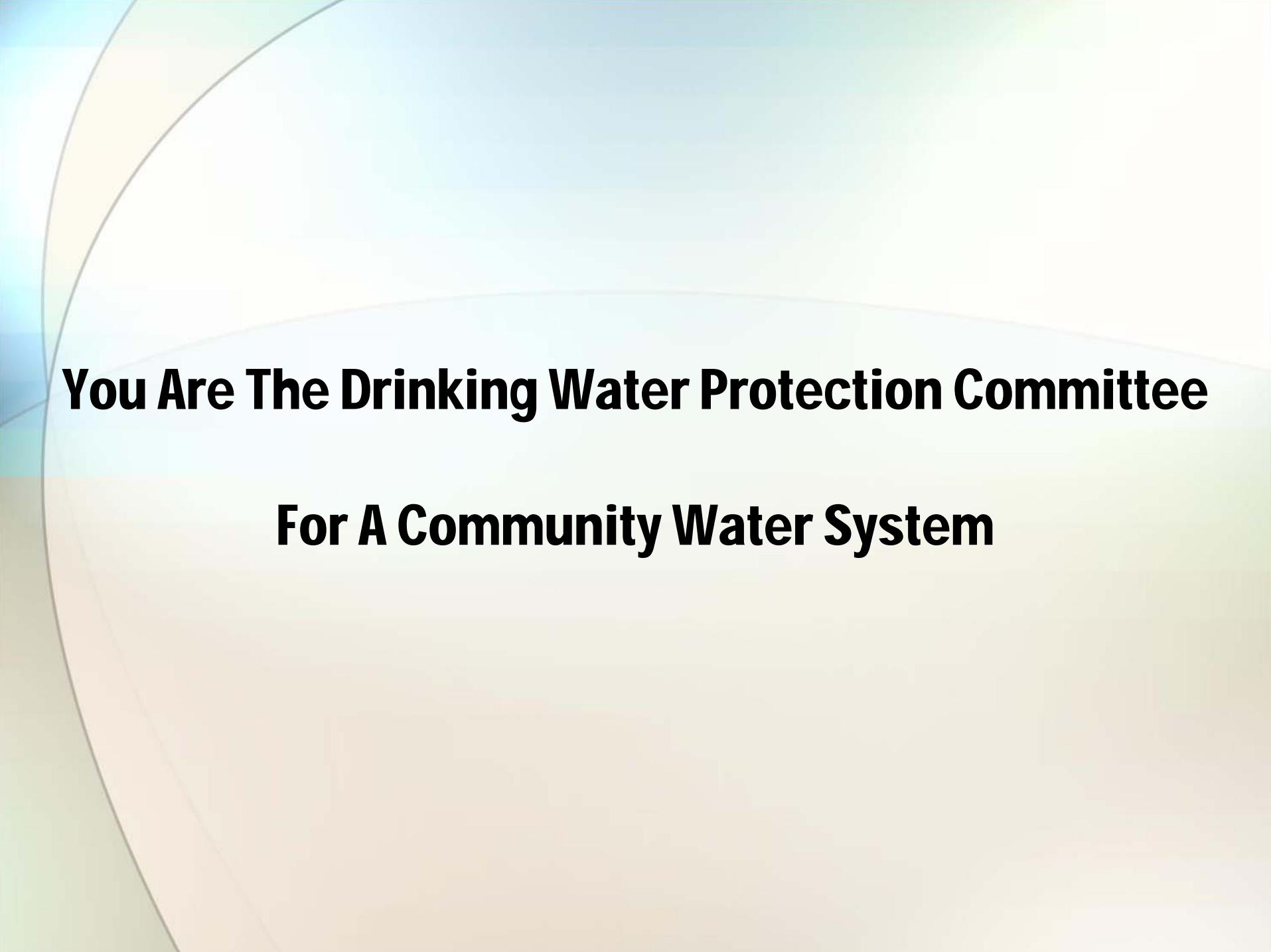
**A community meeting is held in the parish to educate the public and solicit volunteers to join the parish committee.**



# Role of Drinking Water Protection Committees

- **Locally based planning and action team that will implement drinking water protection activities for their community water systems**





# You Are The Drinking Water Protection Committee

## For A Community Water System

# Information Background

## **Identify Significant Sources**

- **LDEQ mapped the location of a public supply well and a surface water drinking water intake for you.**
- **Also mapped were potential sources of contamination within delineated source water protection areas.**



# Potential Sources of Contamination

- **Any facility, location, or activity that stores, uses, or produces a product or by-product that could pose a contamination concern relative to drinking water sources.**
- **See handout of potential sources and their risk factor.**



# Delineated Source Water Protection Area

- **The outlined area surrounding a source of drinking water such as a water well or surface water intake that supplies a public water system.**
- **The outlined area is one through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source of drinking water**

# Factor Affecting Susceptibility

- **Types and number of potential sources of contamination in the source water protection area and their distance from the well or intake.**

# AQUIFERS AND WATERSHEDS

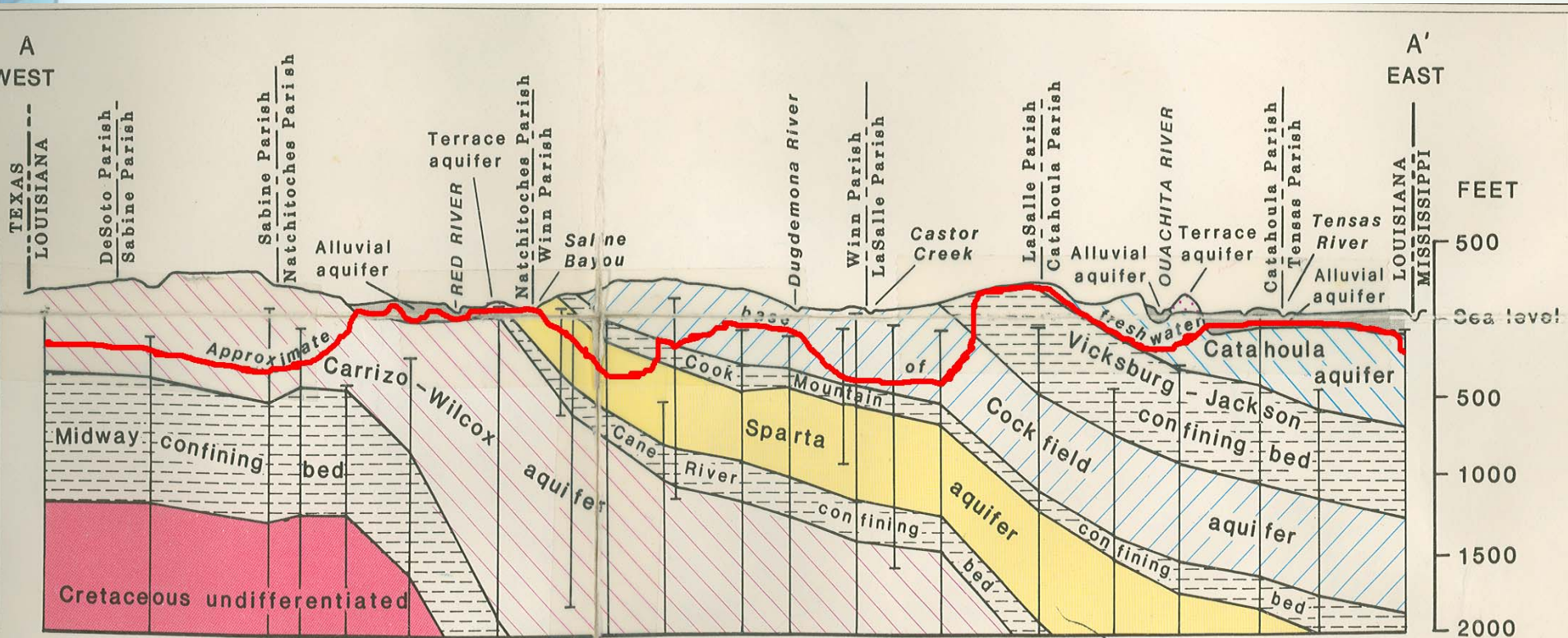
- **A drinking water aquifer is a porous and permeable underground rock or sediment formation that yields economic quantities of water to wells.**
- **A watershed is a surface topographic feature and defines a drainage area into rivers or rivers into a body of water.**



# MOVEMENT OF WATER

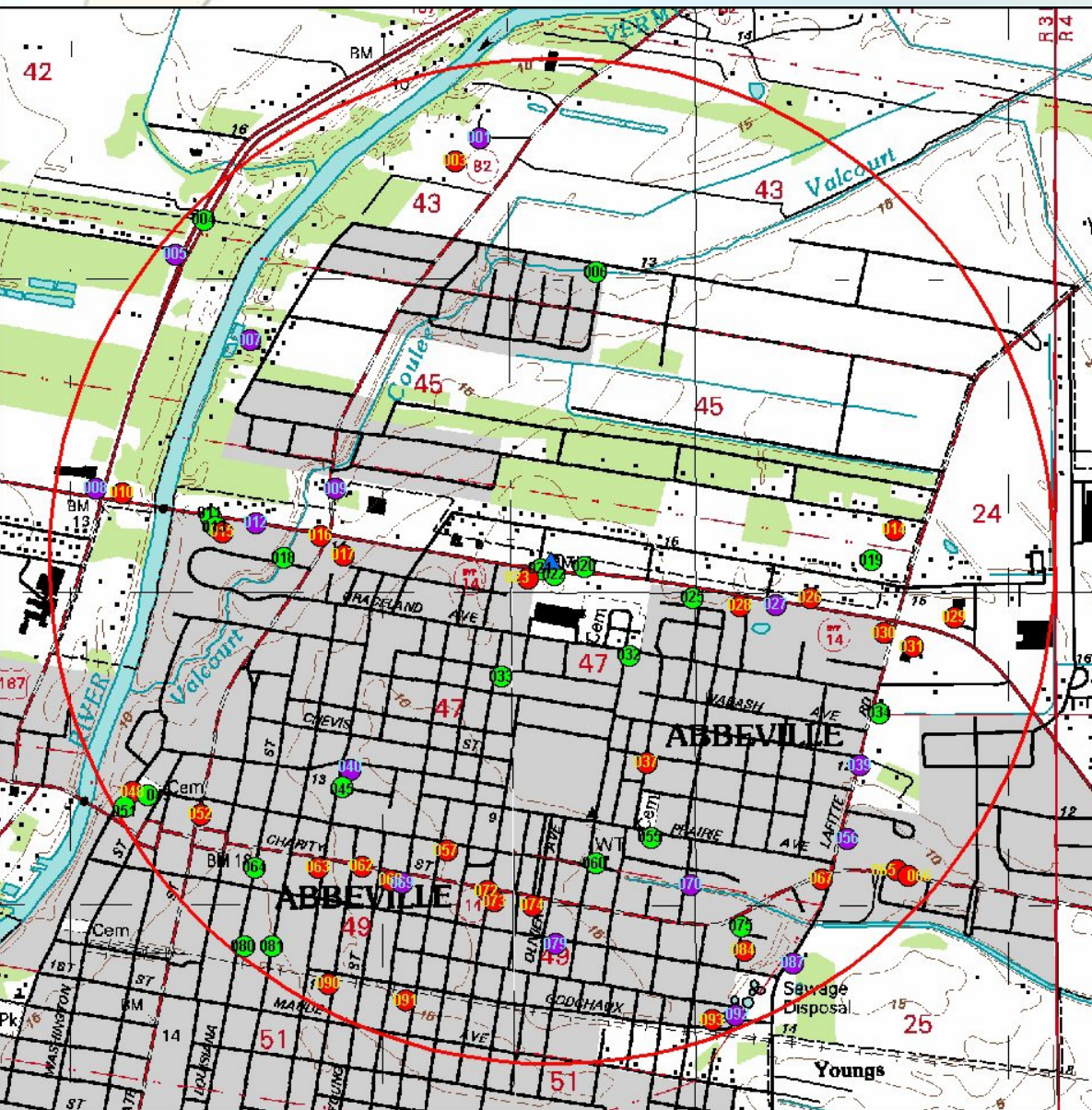
- **Like surface water runoff, ground water moves and can carry contaminants beyond the originating source.**
- **Surface runoff can also result in water carrying pollutants through the ground into underground sources of drinking water.**

# Cross Section of North-Central Louisiana with Freshwater Boundary



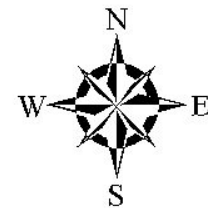


# Map of Ground Water Protection Area



## Potential Sources of Contamination

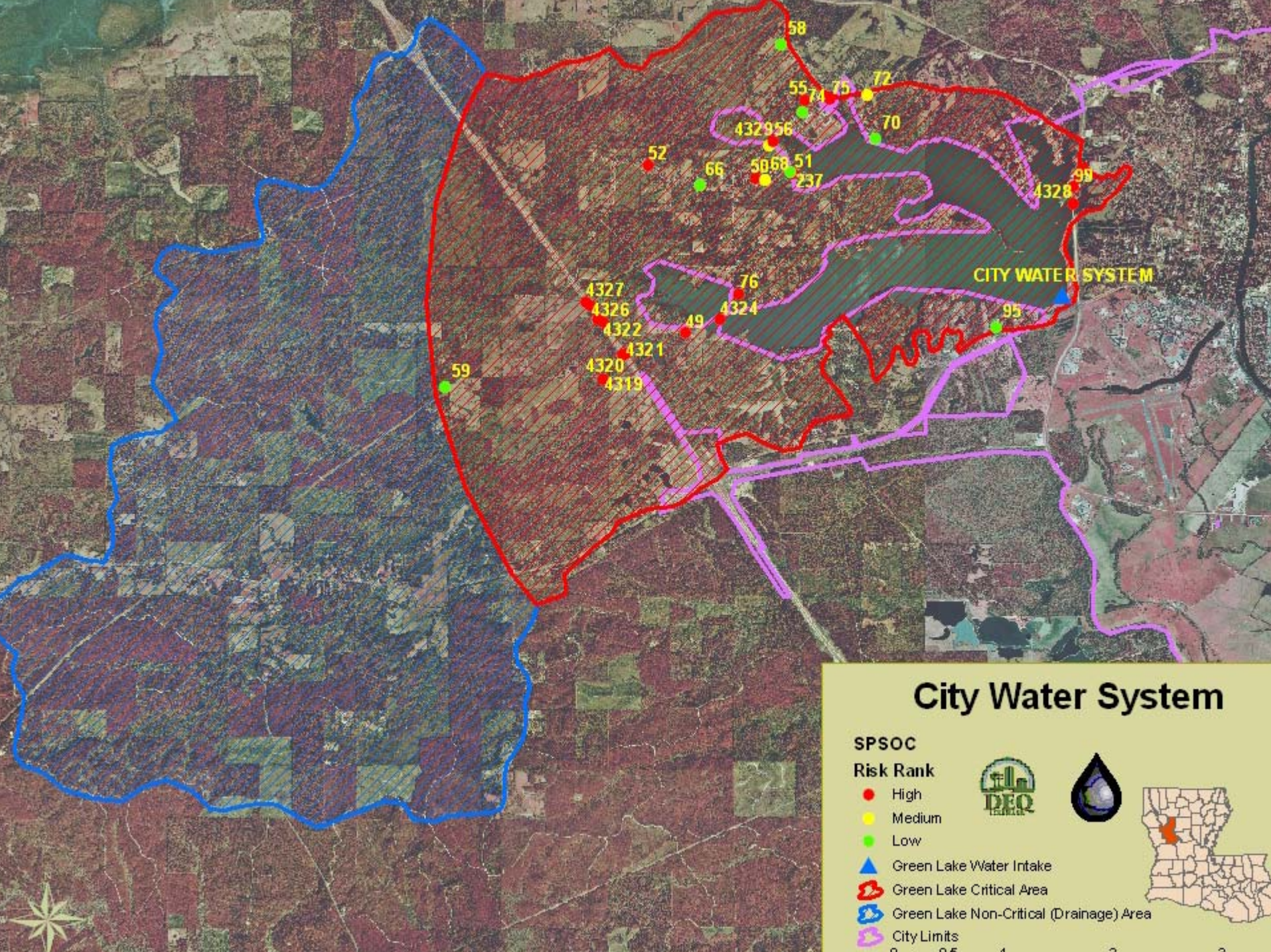
- ▲ Waterwell
- High Risk PSOC
- Medium Risk PSOC
- Low Risk PSOC
- 5280' Radius



Disclaimer: The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has made every reasonable effort to ensure quality and accuracy in producing this map or data set. Nevertheless, the user should be aware that the information on which it is based may have come from any variety of sources, which are of varying degrees of accuracy. Therefore, LDEQ cannot guarantee the accuracy of this map or data set, and does not accept any responsibility for the consequences of its use.

0 600 1,200 2,400 3,600 4,800 6,000 Feet





## City Water System

### SPSOC

#### Risk Rank

- High
- Medium
- Low

Green Lake Water Intake

Green Lake Critical Area

Green Lake Non-Critical (Drainage) Area

City Limits



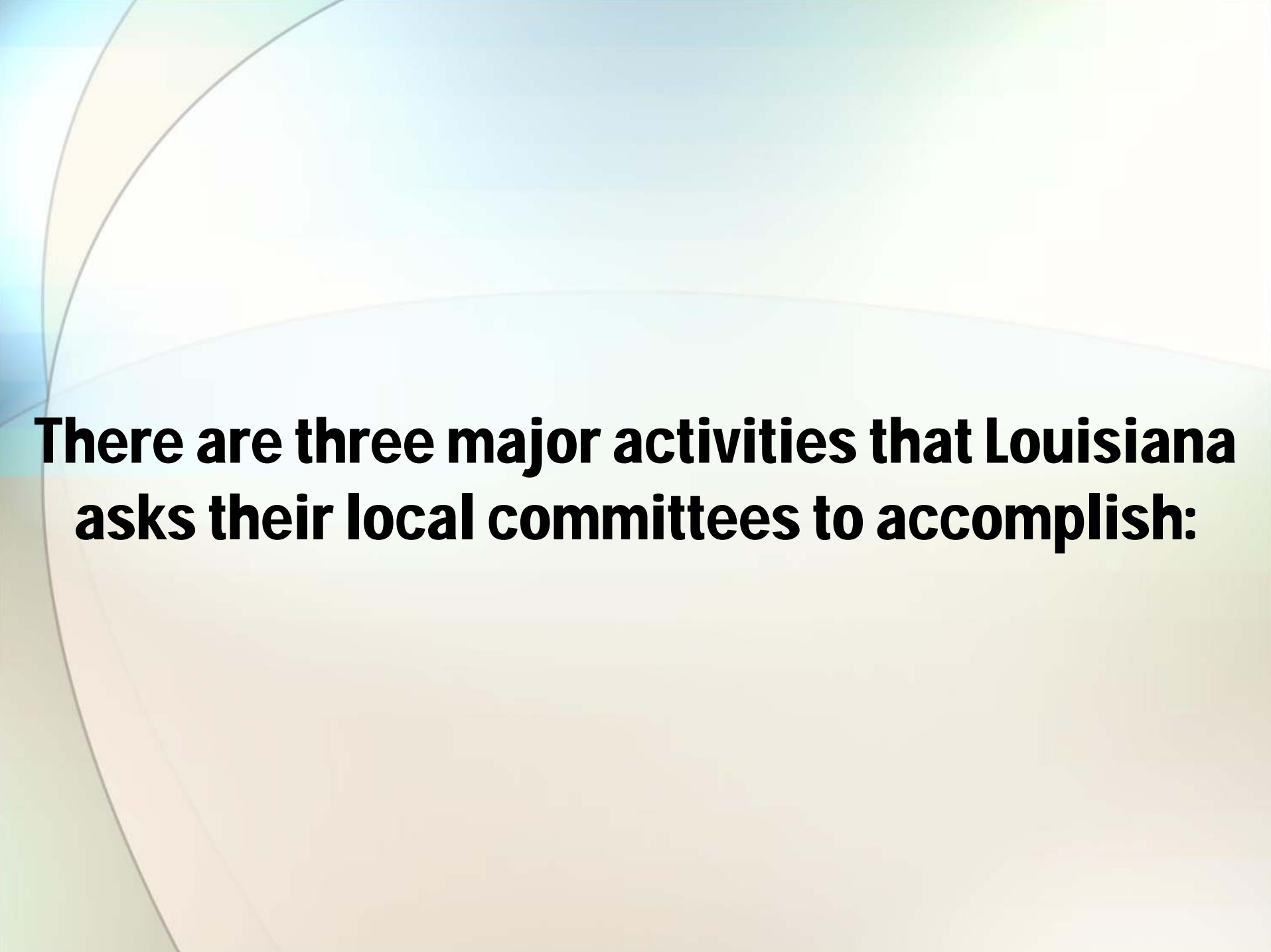


# Your Turn

- Form your committee.
- Examine your map and community description.
- Think of three committee projects to protect your community's drinking water source. List these.
- Answer questions on the handout.

Review of Committee Findings

**Then: Review of Louisiana's Approach**



There are three major activities that Louisiana asks their local committees to accomplish:

# Visits To Potential Sources Of Contamination





# Distribution of Information

- LDEQ and the committee distribute fact sheets on drinking water protection topics to various audiences.
- Lists of used oil recyclers are posted in businesses as well as published in newspapers.
- A drinking water protection video is provided to local access TV channels and schools.

# Encouraging Adoption Of Ordinances

- Committee members familiarize themselves with a model drinking water protection ordinance provided by LDEQ.
- Members attend police jury and town council meetings to encourage adoption of the ordinance, tailored to the specific needs of the community.
- Members encourage local citizens to write letters supporting an ordinance.

## **GROUND WATER MODEL ORDINANCE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CONTAMINATION**

- **The Protection Area is Within a 1000 foot Radial Boundary From Any Drinking Water Well and New Designated Land Uses, Facilities or Activities are Prohibited**
- **Existing Land Uses, Facilities or Activities are Grandfathered In**
- **Undue Hardship Cases May Apply for a Special Permit**
- **Civil and Criminal Enforcement Clauses are Part of the Model Ordinance**
- **Municipalities and Police Juries Use the Model as a Guide and are Instructed to Have Their Own Legal Representative Review the Model and Alter it if Necessary**
- **Local Government is responsible for enforcement of the ordinance**

# Some Of Our Committee Activities

- **Guest speakers on abandoned wells, backflow prevention, mercury, Louisiana's Water Management Plan.**
- **Developed spill prevention and control plan to be distributed to farmers by fuel distributors.**
- **Have opened oil recycling centers and researched forming a Household Hazardous Waste Collection .**
- **Distributed septic tank maintenance information.**



# Key Success Factors

- **How to get people involved?**
- **How to keep volunteers motivated so that goals are achieved?**
- **How to keep committee functioning?**

# How To Get People Involved:

- **Large mass mail out**
- **Make many personal contacts- face to face**
- **Educate contacts on how they are stakeholders in the issue (what's in it for me?)**
- **Media, media, media**
- **Give ownership in the program**
- **Voluntary, not regulatory**
- **PERSIST- maintain contacts!!!!**

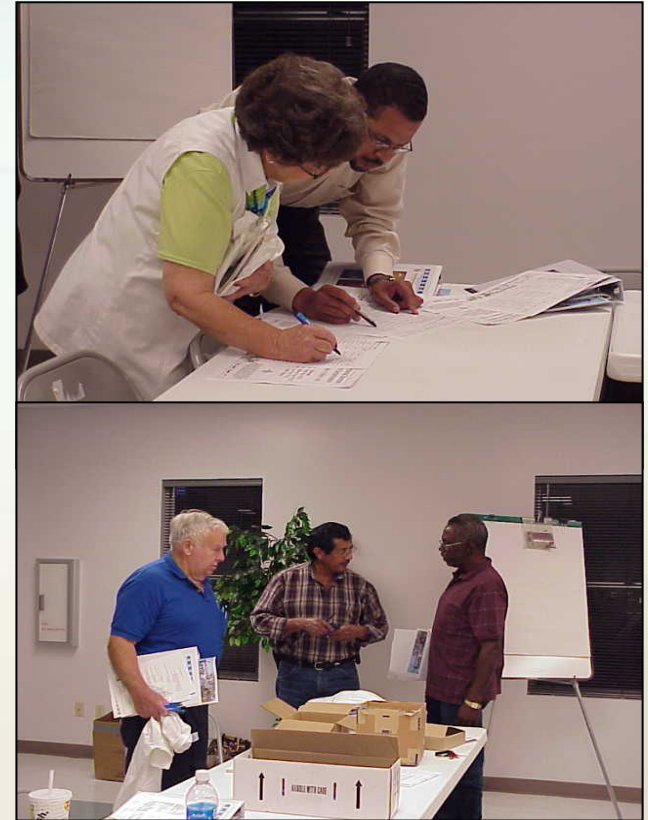
## Often Used Phrases

To Promote Customer Responsibility

- **“Drinking water is easy to contaminate, but difficult and expensive to clean up.”**
- **“There are things that we do everyday that can affect the quality of our drinking water. But there are simple steps we can take to protect Louisiana’s drinking water supply.”**
- **“Health, economy, environment.”**
- **“Thank you for protecting Louisiana’s drinking water, one drop at a time.”**

# How to Keep Volunteers Motivated:

- **Start with small, easy to accomplish projects**
- **Set achievable goals**
- **Divide tasks**
- **Build camaraderie**
  - **Get to know one another**
  - **Informal atmosphere**
  - **Eat together!**
  - **Rotate meeting places**
- **Give committee integral involvement in local program design**
- **Celebrate accomplishments!**





# How to keep committee functioning:

- **Encourage committees to meet once a month to plan and discuss progress on protection activity implementation**
- **Set agendas and keep minutes**
- **Strong leadership of chair**





# Case Study- Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Program

# Acadia Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee

## Accomplishments and Retrospective





# Where It All Began

## Community Meeting April 1, 2004 in Rayne

### Committee formed with 30 active members



# Visits to Businesses

**Committee members visited 128 local businesses identified as potential sources of contamination and educated them on best manages to protect their drinking water.**



# Ordinances

**Drinking Water Protection Ordinances  
were adopted by:**

- **City of Rayne**
- **Town of Church Point**
- **Town of Iota**
- **City of Crowley**
- **Acadia Parish Police Jury**





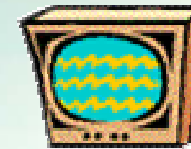
# Used Oil Recycling

- **The committee developed a list of vendors who accept used oil for recycling in the parish.**
- **It was posted in newspapers, in the City of Rayne City Beat newsletter, and on the City of Rayne website.**
- **The list was also distributed to businesses throughout the parish.**



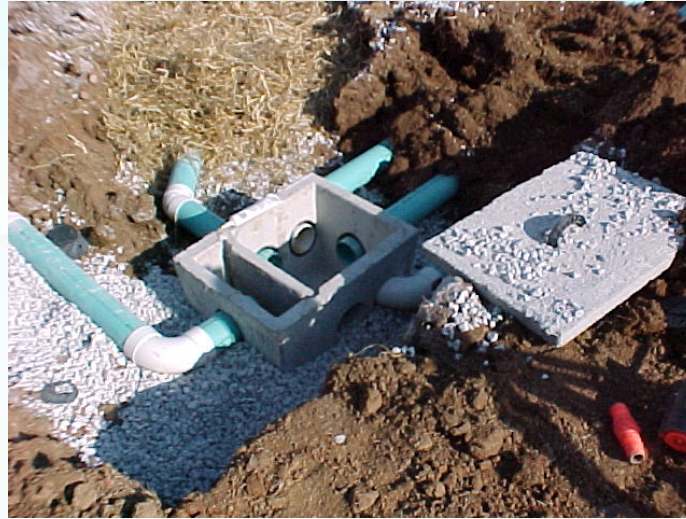


# Media



- **The committee effectively used the media to publish meeting announcements in the local newspapers as well as locations of used oil recyclers.**
- **Media chair Margaret Frey published articles on septic systems maintenance, the importance of plugging abandoned wells, and information about how to protect drinking water.**
- **Chairman Nick Simoneaux contacted Cox public broadcasting to get the drinking water protection video aired in the parish.**

# Septic System Maintenance



**Brochures on proper septic system maintenance were delivered to the parish sanitarian's office for distribution to homeowners when new septic systems are installed.**

# Education Topics

**Guest Speakers were invited to educate the committee on topics of interest:**

- **Fluoridation**
- **Abandoned Wells**
- **Cross Connection Control**
- **Louisiana Ground Water Management Plan**





# Special Recognition

- **Nick Simoneaux – Past Chairman**
- **Don Hilliard – Current Chairman**
- **Margaret Frey – Media Chair**
- **Louisiana Rural Water Association:  
Greg Arabie, Bill Chaumont, Ken Terry  
– Assistance to Committee**



# Egan Water Corporation Louisiana Rural Water System Drinking Water Protection System of the Year - 2004



# City of Rayne Louisiana Rural Water Association Drinking Water Protection Program of the Year - 2005





# And Last But Not Least.....FOOD!

**Special thanks for the delicious meals prepared by:**

- **T.C. Carey**
- **Mike Pastor**
- **Greg Arabie**
- **The Ladies of Estherwood**
- **Mayor Jim Petitjean's chefs**





# **Contact Information**

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**Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section**



# DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team

